

FALCONER NEWS

www.allendale.k12.mi.us

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

****Please continue to check our website for the most up-to-date information on events taking place****

November 10	Veterans Day Ceremony, 11:00 AM, Cegarek Fine Arts Center
November 13	Regular Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 PM, Oakwood Board Room
November 15	Evergreen Music Program, 6:30 PM, Ceglarek Fine Arts Center
November 16	Evergreen Music Program, 6:30 PM. Ceglarek Fine Arts Center
November 18	Robotics ESVIQRC Tournament, Allendale Middle School
November 22-24	No School - Thanksgiving Break
November 27	School Resumes
November 27	Board of Education Work Session, 6:00 PM, Oakwood Board Room



Homeless / Hunger Awareness Week November 13th - 17th

Last year, Allendale school had 63 students who were homeless and 93 students who received night and weekend meals.

Allendale Staff is dedicated to ensuring these students are receiving the resources needed to make education a priority rather than the impossible. Please help us support the programs in our community that provide food to our students and families in need.

Send donations between November 13th and 17th to any of the Allendale School Building.

Items Needed

- Microwavable Mac & cheese, Ravioli Cups, Granola Bars, Pudding Cups, Cheez-its, Pretzels, Goldfish, Canned Fruits, Veggies, Soup, Chili, Stews, Peanut Butter, Tuna, Canned Chicken, Pasta Sides, Noodles, Pasta Sauce (no glass jars), Instant Oatmeal.
- Feminine products

Any Questions

Brianne Blanksma
Blanksmabri@apsfalcons.net



HOLIDAY HELPERS

Allendale's OCSN & LOVE INC are once again partnering together to help our APS families in need for the Christmas season

APPLICATION TO APPLY:

IF YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE THIS CHRISTMAS, PLEASE CLICK ON THIS LINK TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION:

[HTTPS://LOVEINCOFNEOTTAWA.ORG/](https://loveincotneottawa.org/)

ADOPT A FAMILY

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ADOPTING A FAMILY IN THIS PROGRAM, PLEASE EMAIL KARI WIERSEMA VIA WIERSEMAKAR@APSFALCONS.NET OR CALL HER OFFICE AT 616-892-3458.



IF YOU ARE IN
NEED OF HELP
GETTING



Winter Gear



Please email
lindsey@loveincneo.org
or go to:

<https://loveincofneottawa.org/how-we-can-help/>



questions?



KARI WIERSEMA

Community School Coordinator -EG
616-892-3458
wiersemakar@apsfalcons.net

BRI BLANKSMA

Student Support Services - ECC
616-892-3548
blanksmabri@apsfalcons.net

EMMA LUEDTKE

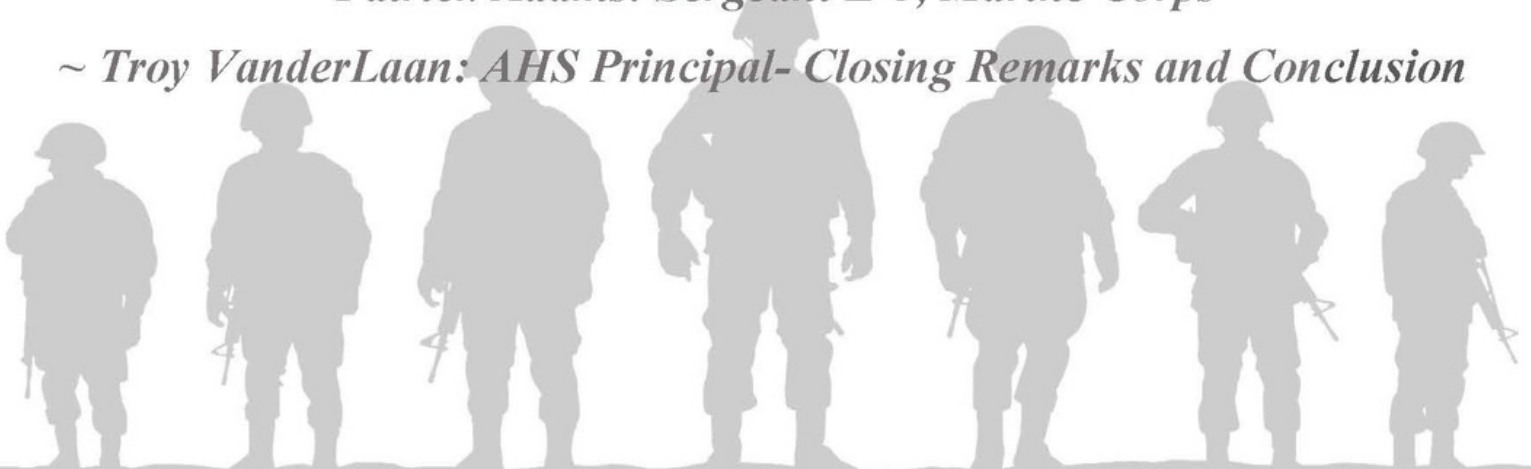
Community School Coordinator -MS
616-892-5595 x6152
luedtkeemm@apsfalcons.net



November 10, 2023

11:00 A.M.

- ~ Veterans in attendance stand to be recognized as the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard presents the Colors*
- ~ Stand with our Veterans to recite the Pledge of Allegiance*
- ~ Please remain standing for Ms. Bolton and the AHS Chamber Choir as they sing the Star Spangled Banner*
- ~ Troy VanderLaan: AHS Principal - Opening Remarks*
- ~ Noah Brose: AHS Student-Veterans Day History*
- ~ Liam Reynolds: AHS Student- President's Proclamation*
- ~ Adam Elenbaas: Allendale Township Supervisor*
- ~ Luke Meerman: Michigan State Representative*
- ~ Mark Huizenga: Michigan State Senator*
- ~ Patrick Adams: Sergeant E-5, Marine Corps*
- ~ Troy VanderLaan: AHS Principal- Closing Remarks and Conclusion*



High School Happenings

The Residential Structures students are showing off their skills!

At the end of last school year, the Residential Structures students were given a challenge to build a ticket booth for our high school stadium. The students built the booth using the techniques they learned in their Residential Structures class. After the booth was finished the maintenance department transported the booth to Falcon Stadium! Congratulations to this amazing group of students!

Allendale High School Residential Structures Class

Jaymes Bonter, Ashleigh Carrell, Joseph Daniel, Kyle Foote, Landon Hatto, Seeton Hoogerhyde, Avrie Jones, Eduardo Juarez-Rios, Sarah Medley, Zane Street, Kaleb Wildfong, Ashley Yablonsky
We'd also like to thank Rick Westerling, Gary Torno and the Grounds & Maintenance Department for giving the students this opportunity to show off their skills!
We Are Allendale!!!



Residential Structures Falcon Stadium Ticket Booth



High School Happenings continued

October 4 Blood Drive results:

Thank you to Sue Gioia, Mike Sispera, and our NHS students for organizing an incredible drive this past week! Please see below for the results:

Goal: 20, **Number of Donors:** 30, **Successful Donations:** 23 whole blood, 4 double reds = 31 successful units!

Nine First Time Donors: Trevor Blanksma, Jayda Chivis, Violet DeHaan, Kristen Fess, Vincent Gebraad, Anthony Piechocki, Bernard Quackenbush, Rylee Silvis, Kevin Wong

Congratulations to our milestone achievers: Stacy Patronik, 1 gallon!

Lives saved in our community: 77!!

Here is a note from Jamie Pancioli, coordinator and account rep for Versiti. "Amazing kickoff to the school year! Those 31 pints will go on to save nearly 80 lives and impact countless families in the weeks to come! We are lucky to have our Allendale High students being such amazing advocates for our hospitals, and more importantly, for our community patients ."

Boys Cross Country

Huge Congratulations to Coach Jones and the Boys Cross Country team for winning the Division 2 Regional Final that we hosted Saturday! This is our first Regional championship in 24 years. We are so proud of our boys and wish them the best of luck at State! They will be running at Michigan International Speedway (12626 US-12, Brooklyn, MI) at 2:50 PM this Saturday, November 4 if you would like to come cheer them on.

Congratulations to Ronnie Silveira for breaking the school record again with a time of 15:36 and coming in second place overall!



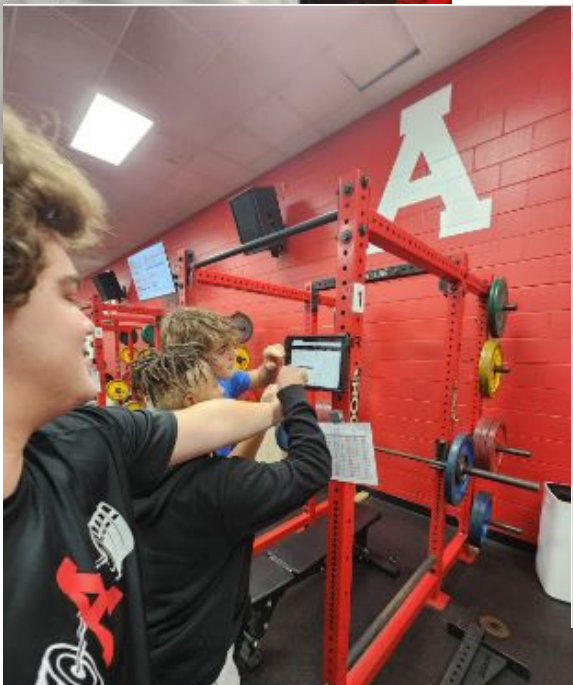
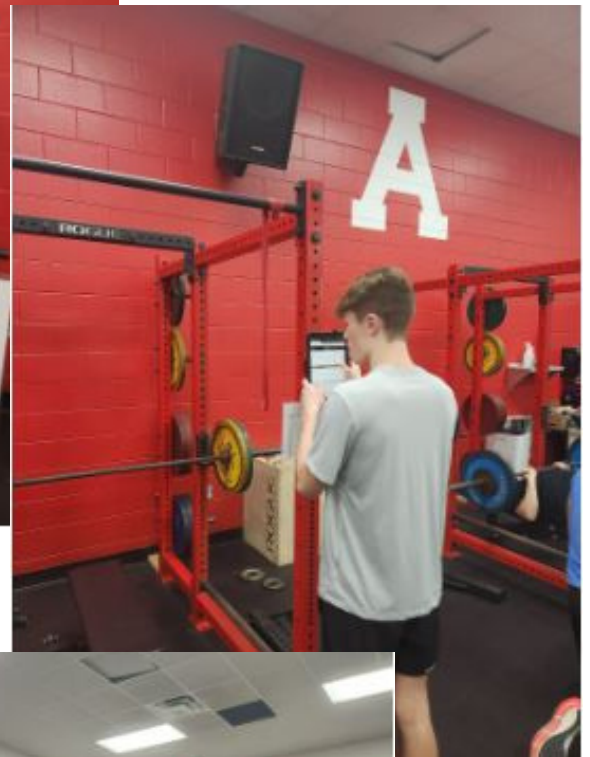
High School Happenings continued

Mr. Johnson's Competitive Athlete Development Class

At Allendale High School we are excited to announce the implementation of Teambuildr for our students and athletes. We will be using Teambuildr in our Competitive Athlete Development Class and our Strength and Conditioning workouts outside of the school day at the High School. Teambuildr gives students a digital platform to view their customized workouts on Ipads and input data that can be used by our teachers, coaches and training staff to track their progress and make changes if needed. This addition will greatly enhance the experience of our students and athletes in these classes and workouts.

Thank you to the following people for making this amazing opportunity possible for our students!

Dr. Cooper
Paul Mulder
Troy Vanderlaan
Beth Voss
Ryan Stevens
Jason Dykstra
Kristen Degroot



Middle School Happenings

7th Grade Science

Students in Mrs. Fuller's 7th grade science class have been studying invasive species in Michigan. They learned about how these invaders are not from Michigan and harm our environment. Students did research, experienced the effects of invasives at the Eastmanville Bayou, looked at its destruction through economic, environmental, and cultural lenses, and illustrated what could be done to help. As a cumulative project, the students decided how they personally were going to "take action". Some students illustrated cartoons, wrote songs or poems, created plans to build an invasive-removing robot, or crafted invasive bugs out of clay. One student even used the knowledge learned in Mr. McMaster's class to code a video game! Emma Arrasmith and Kate Winkler took it one step further. They decided to "take action" by inviting their families to pull out the invasive Purple Loosestrife out of the Sevey Drain at the Allendale Middle School. Great job, ladies!



Middle School Happenings continued:

Allendale Middle School Choirs have a proud tradition of sending students to audition and participate in the Michigan School Vocal Music Association (MSVMA) State Honors Choir. Students are invited to prepare an audition and a clinic piece selected by MSVMA, submit a blind video audition, and perform in a Regional Honors Choir after rehearsing and preparing for several weeks. Based on their audition, qualifying singers are invited to participate in one of three State Honors Choirs that perform at DeVos Place in downtown Grand Rapids in January 2024.

We are incredibly proud of these students who were selected to perform in the Regional Honors Choir on Saturday, October 14:

Claire Bajema, 8th Grade

*Addelyn Bliss, 7th Grade: SA State Honors Choir

*Thomas Cisler, 7th Grade: SA State Honors Choir

*Paige Eisen, 7th Grade: SSA State Honors Choir

*Arleigh Geerts, 8th Grade: SSA State Honors Choir

Hendrik Geerts, 6th Grade

*Selah Johnson, 6th Grade: SA State Honors Choir

*Bella Kastelz, 8th Grade: SA State Honors Choir

*Fiona Kirkendall, 8th Grade: SA State Honors Choir

Emersyn Kleimola, 7th Grade

*Georgia Lehman, 7th Grade: SA State Honors Choir

*Benny Mathews, 7th Grade: SA State Honors Choir

JayAni Medina, 7th Grade

Isabella Piccard, 8th Grade

Graysen Snip, 8th Grade

Azie Tenney, 7th Grade (Not pictured)

*Bianca Veliz-Figueroa, 8th Grade: SSA State Honors Choir

Kaitlyn Yates, 6th Grade

Abigail Zemba, 7th Grade

*indicates students selected to participate in a State Honors Choir

SA - Soprano Alto

SSA - Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto



Oakwood Happenings

Record Number of Students Earned 'Communitarian' Awards in September

What is a 'Communitarian' Award you ask? A **humanitarian** is one person who does good for the benefit of other people. Rosa Parks and Mother Teresa might be considered humanitarians. A community of people doing good deeds could then be called a **communitarian**. Many Oakwood students are recognized each day for going above and beyond the daily 3 R's (Respectful, Responsible, and Ready to Learn). A total of 84 students were recognized and received a small reward for their efforts. Thanks to all the 4th and 5th graders for growing a better community at Oakwood!

Oakwood Communitarian Kudo



Presented to:

- ☐ Positive Attitude
- ☐ Good Choices
- ☐ Community Leader
- ☐ Big Thinker

Recognized by: _____

Teacher: _____

Date: _____

Better Me = Better Oakwood

Evergreen Happenings

Homecoming Parade
through the K-8 campus



Allendale Early Childhood Center Happenings

Family Fun Night

Our Preschool Programs hosted their first-ever "Fall Family Fun Night" with games, prizes, cider, donuts, and a new pair of mittens for every student! We had over 120 families attend, as there were many students and families excited for Fall!



AECC Visitor

With the weather being so nice, the students at the AECC were given an extra recess, and a special visitor just in time for Halloween!





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APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Special Education



Brooke Mason – Special Education Teacher

Mrs. Mason is a terrific teacher. She is calm, cool, and compassionate with her students. She is very dedicated to supporting the students in her classroom meet their highest potential. She also works very well with other staff members who service the students in her room, and with parents of the students she services. Brooke does a great job planning lessons and activities that promote learning and address student functional and academic needs. She is truly an exceptional teacher.

Mrs. Mason is in her 13th year as a Special Education Teacher and 6th year as an ASD Teacher at Evergreen. She has a Bachelors Degree from GVSU and a Masters Degree in Special Education from MSU.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Special Education



Dana Pechumer – Physical Therapist

Mrs. Pechumer is an excellent physical therapist. She is very knowledgeable and skilled. She works extremely well with parents, students, and coworkers. She is always positive and upbeat. When working with students, she makes the therapy fun and engaging. She truly puts students first and is always thinking of ways to support students and promote independence. She is a huge asset to Allendale Public Schools, the students she services, the parents of these students, and the staff she works with.

Mrs. Pechumer received her doctorate degree from the University of Michigan. She then began working in Allendale schools immediately following, in 2016. She began by splitting her time between two districts and working in the hospital setting as well. Since 2019 she has been working full time for Allendale Public Schools. Her favorite part of the job is finding FUN ways to work with kids and turning difficult activities into PLAY.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Special Education



Sarah VanderVeen - ECC Paraprofessional

Mrs. VanderVeen is amazing with the students she works with. She gets to their level, plays with them, supports them, works with them, assists in teaching them, etc.. She remains very busy, is always supporting students and works hard to meet their needs. She works very well with the classroom teacher and staff who also service the students in the classroom. Mrs. VanderVeen is very dedicated and caring. She is a true hard worker who does an excellent job supporting students and staff on a daily basis.

Mrs. VanderVeen has lived in Allendale for 7 years with her husband and two children. She started as a parapro at the ECC in 2020 and moved into the ECSE (Early Childhood Special Education Classroom) where she has been since 2021.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale Early Childhood Center



Darian Barr – Young 5's Teacher

Ms. Barr is in her second year of teaching at the AECC. We were fortunate enough to have Ms. Barr do her student teaching here at the AECC, and we were blessed to have her come onto our Young 5's team after she graduated from GVSU. Ms. Barr comes to school on a daily basis with a smile on her face, and tons of energy helping her students fall in love with learning at such a young age. We could not be happier to have Ms. Barr as a part of our awesome Young 5's team!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale Early Childhood Center



Amy Dyke - AECC Secretary

Mrs. Dyke has been a part of the APS staff for the last eight years. Mrs. Dyke started working in the Evergreen kitchen before becoming a secretary in the Evergreen office. For the last five years, Mrs. Dyke has been the "face of the AECC", welcoming our students and families every time they enter the building with a warm and kind demeanor. We wouldn't want anyone else to be greeting our families, as we are truly blessed to have Mrs. Dyke in our office!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Evergreen Elementary



Sunshine Dykstra – 2nd Grade Teacher

Evergreen Elementary School would like to recognize Mrs. Dykstra as our staff member of the month. Mrs. Dykstra has taught and coached for Allendale Public Schools since 2018. She is currently serving as one of our second-grade classroom teachers and coaches in the soccer and volleyball programs. Throughout her career as an elementary classroom teacher, Mrs. Dykstra has always put her students' well-being above her own. She goes above and beyond to ensure that every one of her students feels loved, accepted, and valued. Mrs. Dykstra is enthusiastic, fun-loving, and has a boundless supply of energy which helps her build deep relationships with her students, thus creating an excellent learning environment in her classroom. Not only has Mrs. Dykstra blessed Evergreen's students and families through her approach to teaching, but she also has shared in the work of leading the Evergreen staff through her participation on the School Leadership Team and the PBIS Leadership Team over the past several years. We are so grateful for the contributions that Mrs. Dykstra has made to the Allendale community. Thank you, Mrs. Dykstra, for all you do for the students and families of Allendale!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Evergreen Elementary



Jessica Hitchcock – Building Aide

Evergreen Elementary would like to recognize Mrs. Hitchcock as our Building Aide of the month! Mrs. Hitchcock currently works as a Behavioral Aide and supports students in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade. She has served in many capacities over the past seven years working as a lunchroom aide across all the buildings and as a building aide at Evergreen. Mrs. Hitchcock has done a tremendous job in providing a positive approach to supporting student behavior and goes above and beyond to develop positive relationships with all students she interacts with on a daily basis. Thank you Mrs. Hitchcock!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Oakwood Intermediate



Julia Holdsworth – 4th Grade Teacher

Oakwood Intermediate is proud to recognize Ms. Holdsworth. Ms. Holdsworth has been a part of the APS district for almost ten years. Prior to joining the 4th grade team seven years ago, she has served the district as a Spanish teacher, a math interventionist and a reading interventionist at Evergreen/Springview. What Ms. Holdsworth loves most about her job as an educator is the relationships and community she is able to build in her classroom. She loves getting to know her students not only academically but personally too. Her favorite time of the day is their 'Holdsworth Huddle' time.

Ms. Holdsworth is a very organized person, both at school and at home. She loves to watch scary movies, hang with her family and her pets, play games, shop and spend time in northern Michigan.

Thank you to Ms. Holdsworth for all she does to support her students and her teaching team.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Oakwood Intermediate



Sonja Thompson - Behavior Aide

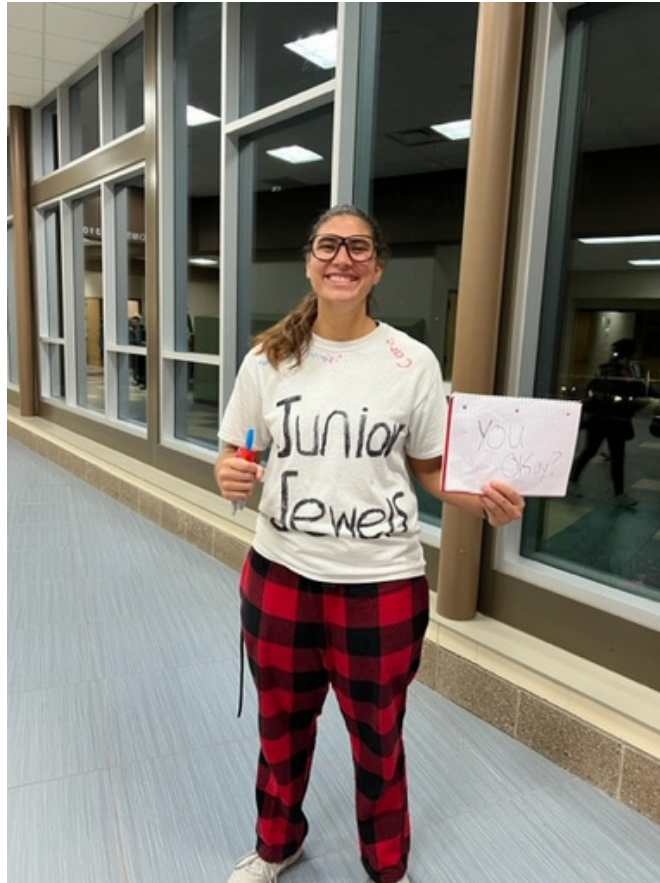
Although she started her career with Allendale Public Schools in the kitchen, Mrs. Thompson has found her passion in her role as general education Behavior Aide at Oakwood. She has also served the district in our SXI Program and as a special education aide. Mrs. Thompson truly enjoys helping students with strategies and skills to help them become successful in and out of the classroom. She pours into them, helping them feel safe and cared for with her kind and gentle demeanor and her positive attitude. Mrs. Thompson also helps support our PBIS efforts at Oakwood by organizing school wide positive behavior initiatives.

When not helping students, Mrs. Thompson enjoys spending time with her family and especially her grandson. She also enjoys spending time outdoors.

Oakwood is a better place because of Mrs. Thompson's passion for helping students and staff.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale Middle School



Melanie Adema – 7th Grade Social Studies Teacher

We are proud to recognize Ms. Adema as our November Staff Member of the Month. Ms. Adema is a graduate of Coopersville HS but don't hold that against her. She is now a Falcon and we are grateful to have her! Ms. Adema is in her fifth year as a 7th grade Social Studies teacher and a workaholic! When she's not teaching she's running our Leadership Committee that organizes spirit week, pep assemblies, food drives, etc. Ms. Adema can also be found at almost every sporting event. She supervises home volleyball games. She is in the weight room before school with students. She attends/supervises high school sporting events. She even travels to colleges/universities to watch former AMS athletes play. Ms. Adema is always willing to help set up or tear down events. She even found time to drive the golf cart in the homecoming parade for the freshmen class representatives. Did I mention, Ms. Adema is beloved by students? Ms. Adema has immersed herself in APS and we couldn't be happier that she is with us.

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale Middle School



Lauren Gillissie - 6-12 Grade Academic Coach

We proudly recognize Lauren Gillissie, 6-12 grade Academic Coach, as the Allendale Middle School exceptional staff of the month. Mrs. Gillissie's unwavering dedication and tireless efforts make her an invaluable asset to our school community. Her commitment to supporting both teachers and students is evident in every interaction she has. Mrs. Gillissie's boundless enthusiasm and genuine care uplift those around her, fostering an atmosphere of collaboration and growth. She consistently goes above and beyond to provide insightful guidance and innovative teaching strategies that empower our educators. Mrs. Gillissie's reservoir of creative ideas seems bottomless, and her ability to translate these into actionable plans greatly enhances the learning experience for our students. Her remarkable work ethic, unyielding support, and transformative ideas make Mrs. Gillissie truly deserving of this recognition. Congratulations on this well-earned achievement!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale High School



Tracie Sult – High School Spanish Teacher

The staff member recognized this month is Mrs. Sult. Mrs. Sult has served Allendale High School for decades and has become a fixture in the Allendale community as a Spanish teacher at the high school. She has been humbly serving our school and has sought no recognition for herself while doing everything that she can to allow her students to shine. She has coached, advised, and more throughout her career. She has worked diligently to get high schoolers into the elementary classrooms to introduce Spanish to them. She has worked to earn students college credit through the CLEP tests and has taken students all around the world, giving them experiences that will follow them for the rest of their lives. I consistently hear students praise Mrs. Sult, expressing their love for being in her class. Mrs. Sult cares deeply for her students and excels in creating a productive and meaningful environment for them. Thank you Mrs. Sult for your commitment to Allendale High School and our students!

APS STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Allendale High School



Andrew Jakobcic – District Behavior Coach

Mr. Jakobcic has been our District Behavior Coach since the beginning of the 2019 school year. As the Behavior Coach, he gets the opportunity to work alongside staff and students to identify and build on classroom management practices that focus on a positive behavior system. This system supports our students' learning environment. Mr. Jakobcic brings a necessary expertise to our district and always helps us support our students and staff. His care for the wellbeing of others radiates in everything that he is involved in. In the fall of 2022, Mr. Jakobcic took on the role of MTSS Advisor in addition to his coaching role supporting our district in implementing a Multi-tiered System of Support across all buildings. He is committed to supporting buildings in developing and implementing Tiered Systems of Support for students in both academic and non-academic focus areas in order to support excellent learning environments for our students. Mr. Jakobcic is a dedicated father to three wonderful girls and husband to an amazing partner. He grew up in West Michigan, and it is evident in his work in Allendale that he is extremely passionate about supporting this community.